

## **Message from the Dean – PeMURS 2026**

It gives me immense pleasure to send this message to the Peradeniya Medical Undergraduate Research Symposium (PeMURS) 2026. Over the years, research activities among our undergraduate students have continued to flourish, reflecting the Faculty's strong commitment to academic excellence, critical thinking, and scientific inquiry. PeMURS has become an important platform that nurtures these qualities and encourages our students to engage meaningfully in research and innovation.

Research remains an integral pillar of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, and I am delighted to witness the growing enthusiasm and dedication of our undergraduate students towards scholarly activities. The incorporation of research into the undergraduate curriculum has greatly strengthened this culture, inspiring students to explore emerging scientific challenges, contribute new knowledge, and develop solutions that benefit society and healthcare.

PeMURS 2026 provides a valuable opportunity for students, academics, and researchers to come together to present their work, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations. It is particularly encouraging to see young researchers confidently showcasing their findings and engaging in scientific dialogue that will shape the future of medicine and healthcare in Sri Lanka.

We are truly honoured to have Dr D. B. Nugegoda gracing this year's symposium as our Chief Guest and Prof. Nuwan Darshana Wickramasinghe as our Keynote Speaker.

We are also privileged to receive the continued encouragement and support of our higher authorities, especially our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, whose unwavering commitment to research and academic advancement continues to strengthen the culture of scholarship within our university.

I firmly believe that events such as PeMURS not only celebrate the academic achievements of our students but also cultivate a spirit of inquiry, resilience, and lifelong learning. These experiences empower our future medical professionals to approach healthcare challenges with curiosity, compassion, and scientific integrity. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Head and the staff of the Department of Community Medicine for conducting the learning module on research and conducting the examination. I thank the staff and students of the organizing committee of PeMURS for their commitment in organizing this event.

I wish the Peradeniya Medical Undergraduate Research Symposium 2026 every success and extend my heartfelt congratulations to all participants, organizers, and supporters who have contributed towards making this event a reality.

**Prof. P.S.K. Nanayakkara**

Dean

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